

Part 402 – Soil Survey

Subpart A - Introduction

NM402.5 Official Soil Survey Information

a) The OFFICIAL SOIL SURVEY INFORMATION for a soil survey area may take on various forms depending upon mapping and publication dates, update status, mechanism of delivery, and data format. The official data consists of the most recently certified and released soil descriptions, soil property and interpretation tables, and soil maps, regardless of the format. The most recent posting of the soil survey information to the soil data warehouse replaces, as the Official Information, any existing similar data. This information is located at the USDA-NRCS Soil Data Mart at <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/>

b) The OFFICIAL SOIL SURVEY INFORMATION for areas not yet posted in the Soil Data Warehouse consists of the most recently delivered data from the state office. It may consist of only hardcopy publication reports, draft soil manuscripts and maps, or digital soil maps and databases not yet recertified to current technical requirements.

c) An OFFICIAL SOIL SURVEY INFORMATION file is to be maintained in the field office in Section II of the Field Office Technical Guide. It may include the following:

- 1) printed Soil Survey Series publications report
- 2) print on demand report text
- 3) printed copies of soil descriptions, tables, and maps,
- 4) files on electronic media (CD, removable disk)
- 5) listings of Internet accessible links,
- 6) metadata files
- 7) records of onsite investigations and error resolutions

d) This is maintenance copy of soil survey descriptions, tables and maps. It also serves as a record of technical revisions and error corrections to the soil survey area until incorporated into the official information, certified and re-released in digital form.

e) A Technical Guide Transmittal will be used to certify and distribute new releases or updates of the OFFICIAL SOIL SURVEY INFORMATION.

f) Specific procedures regarding the maintenance and use of OFFICIAL SOIL SURVEY INFORMATION are covered in the items listed below.

1) An errata log (Exhibit 1) will be maintained at the front of the binder containing the “OFFICIAL SOIL SURVEY INFORMATION”. A record of all discovered errors shall be logged after investigation and include the date, name of the observers, pages in the text or map sheets that contain the errors, the needed correction, and any remarks. An entry in the log does lessen the need to document the correction within the report, maps, or other information.

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2) The Soil Interpretation tables as they exist in the SSURGO database in the field office or accessed via the Internet on the eFOTG, are the most current information for the Soil Survey. Either a hard copy will be printed and included with the “OFFICIAL SOIL SURVEY INFORMATION” or appropriate references made directing the user to information through local or web-based applications, such as the Customer Service Toolkit, eFOTG, or Soil Data Mart.

3) The revisions, corrections, or updates are to be coordinated through the State Office with the approval of the State Soil Scientist. No changes will be made for the purpose of qualifying someone for an Agricultural Program, change land classifications such as Highly Erodible Land (HEL), Hydric Soils, or Prime and Statewide Important Farmland designations. In situations where documented field investigations show the need to change an erroneous designation, the rules governing the program affected will come into affect.

4) If the revisions involve more than few scattered areas on soil maps, then the formal process for evaluation and review of a soil survey as described in the National Soil Survey Handbook, Part 610, will be followed. As needed, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be developed to update the survey. The decision on the need to develop a MOU will be at the discretion of the State Conservationist.

5) The “OFFICIAL SOIL SURVEY INFORMATION” will be maintained continuously from the time the soil survey project is completed until it is formally revised and reissued. Deficiencies observed as the soil survey is used should be noted to provide documentation of the need to update this survey. This may include deficiencies resulting from mapping scale, land-use changes, application of new technologies and tools, new Agricultural Programs, and impairment or other changes in the soil itself.

6) The written notes, observations, and documentation records should be maintained until the soil survey is officially updated and written logs entered into NASIS creating a permanent record of changes to the soil survey information. As appropriate, the errata log will be reviewed and transmitted to the state soil scientist for documentation in NASIS, corrections, and recertification as the official data.

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Exhibit 1. – **SOIL SURVEY INFORMATION ERRATA LOG**

Soil Survey Area Name and Number: (NM___) - _____

PAGE __ OF __	DATE	REVIEWER (PRINT AND SIGN)	ERROR NOTED (PAGE, MAP SHEET, TABLE)	OBSERVATIONS, CORRECTIONS, REMARKS (REFERENCE AND ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES, PHOTOS, ETC. AS NEEDED)
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				